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**MOUNTAIN-PLAINS INFORMATION OFFICE: Kansas City, Mo.**

Technical information: (816) 285-7000 • BLSInfoKansasCity@bls.gov • [www.bls.gov/regions/mountain-plains/](http://www.bls.gov/regions/mountain-plains/)

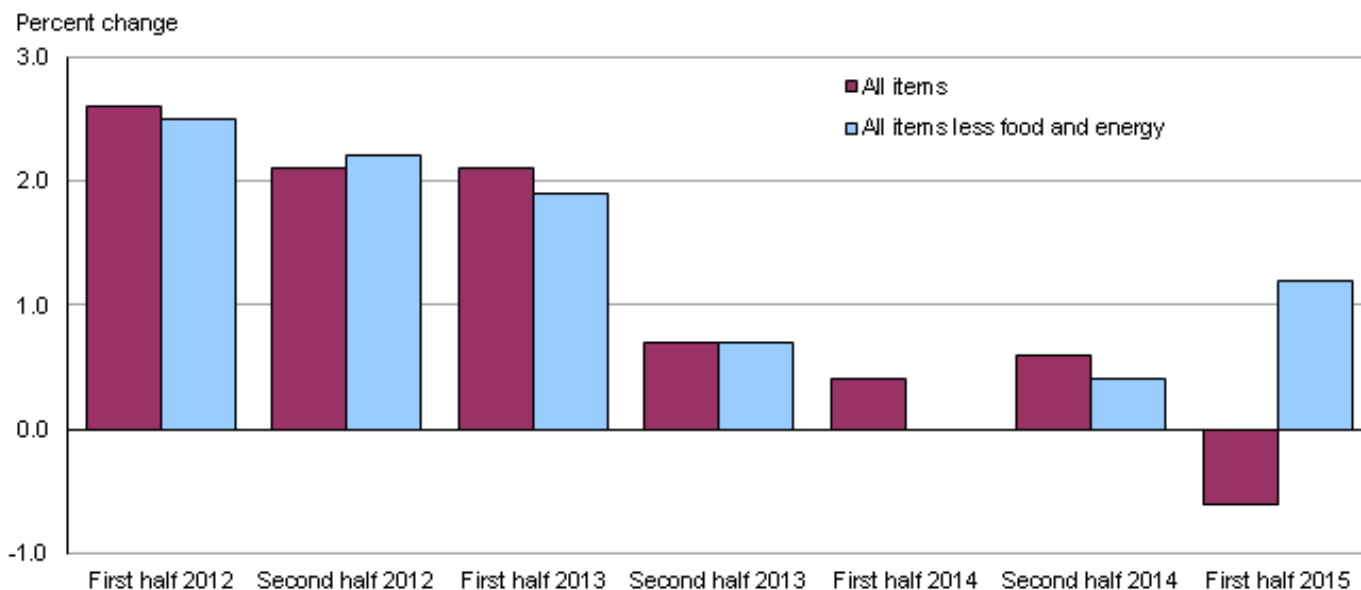
Media contact: (816) 285-7000

## **Consumer Price Index, Kansas City – First Half 2015**

### **Prices decreased 0.6 percent from the first half of 2014 to the first half of 2015**

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the Kansas City, Mo.-Kan., metropolitan area decreased 0.6 percent from the first half of 2014 to the first half of 2015, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. This is the first over-the-year decline in the all items index since 2009. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that the energy index had the largest downward impact on the index. Energy costs decreased 18.8 percent, food prices advanced 2.1 percent, and the all items less food and energy index rose 1.2 percent over the year.

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Kansas City, first half 2012–first half 2015**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### **Food**

Food prices rose 2.1 percent from the first half of 2014 to the first half of 2015. Within the food index, costs for food at home advanced 1.6 percent and prices for food away from home were up 2.5 percent. These compared with increases of 2.6 percent and 2.0 percent, respectively, in the 12-month period that ended in the first half of 2014.

## **Energy**

The energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, fell 18.8 percent from the first half of 2014 to the first half of 2015, registering the largest over-the-year decrease in this component since 2009. Falling prices for motor fuel (-30.7 percent), most of which occurred in the most recent six months of the period, were largely responsible for the decline in the energy index. Costs for utility (piped) gas service, down 13.4 percent over the year, also contributed to the decrease. In contrast, electricity prices rose 1.5 percent from the first half of 2014.

## **All items less food and energy**

The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.2 percent from the first half of 2014 to the first half of 2015, after registering no change in the same period one year ago. Shelter costs advanced 2.7 percent and had the largest upward impact on the all items less food and energy index. In contrast, education and communication (-1.8 percent) and apparel (-3.0 percent) were among the expenditure categories posting lower prices over the year.

The Kansas City CPI-U stood at 221.505 for the first half of 2015. This means that a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in the 1982-84 base period cost \$221.51 in the first half of 2015. Because metropolitan area CPI data are not adjusted for seasonal price variation, consumers and businesses should be cautious in drawing conclusions about long-term retail price trends from short-term changes in the metropolitan area indexes.

## **CPI-W**

The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for the Kansas City, Mo.-Kan., metropolitan area for the first half of 2015 was 212.284. The CPI-W decreased 1.2 percent from the first half of 2014 to the first half of 2015.

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**The Consumer Price Index for the Second Half of 2015 is scheduled to be released in January 2016.**

## **Technical Note**

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of

stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/cpi](http://www.bls.gov/cpi) and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17\\_a.htm](http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm).

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between areas; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The Kansas City, Mo.-Kan., area covered in this release includes Johnson, Leavenworth, Miami, and Wyandotte Counties in Kansas; and Cass, Clay, Clinton, Jackson, Lafayette, Platte, and Ray Counties in Missouri.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 1-800-877-8339.

**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods Kansas City, MO-KS (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)**

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 1st half 2015 from-	
	1st half 2014	2nd half 2014	1st half 2015	1st half 2014	2nd half 2014
<b>Expenditure category</b>					
All Items.....	222.842	222.470	221.505	-0.6	-0.4
All items (1967=100).....	661.697	660.592	657.726		
Food and beverages.....	249.749	255.318	255.432	2.3	0.0
Food.....	255.052	260.738	260.504	2.1	-0.1
Food at home.....	245.461	251.246	249.404	1.6	-0.7
Food away from home.....	271.526	276.272	278.191	2.5	0.7
Alcoholic beverages.....	188.608	192.818	196.384	4.1	1.8
Housing.....	207.730	208.829	211.173	1.7	1.1
Shelter.....	229.512	231.383	235.647	2.7	1.8
Rent of primary residence <sup>(1)</sup> .....	233.518	236.641	240.491	3.0	1.6
Owners' equiv. rent of residences <sup>(1) (2)</sup> .....	225.719	227.932	230.495	2.1	1.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence <sup>(1) (2)</sup> .....	225.719	227.932	230.495	2.1	1.1
Fuels and utilities.....	232.356	232.619	227.333	-2.2	-2.3
Household energy.....	200.999	197.587	191.597	-4.7	-3.0
Energy services <sup>(1)</sup> .....	198.208	195.305	189.440	-4.4	-3.0
Electricity <sup>(1)</sup> .....	156.491	158.233	158.766	1.5	0.3
Utility (piped) gas service <sup>(1)</sup> .....	218.245	206.438	188.958	-13.4	-8.5
Household furnishings and operations.....	124.098	122.360	123.576	-0.4	1.0
Apparel.....	120.186	116.323	116.529	-3.0	0.2
Transportation.....	212.086	204.681	192.376	-9.3	-6.0
Private transportation.....	209.281	202.169	189.793	-9.3	-6.1
Motor fuel.....	306.027	277.639	211.974	-30.7	-23.7
Gasoline (all types).....	305.006	276.570	211.172	-30.8	-23.6
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>(3)</sup> .....	298.380	270.348	205.905	-31.0	-23.8
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>(3) (4)</sup> .....	370.843	335.535	256.530	-30.8	-23.5
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>(3)</sup> .....	296.360	270.634	211.210	-28.7	-22.0
Medical Care.....	336.849	339.435	343.775	2.1	1.3
Recreation <sup>(5)</sup> .....	130.336	128.090	129.837	-0.4	1.4
Education and communication <sup>(5)</sup> .....	127.780	127.697	125.422	-1.8	-1.8
Other goods and services.....	380.770	383.306	385.861	1.3	0.7
<b>Commodity and Service Group</b>					
All Items.....	222.842	222.470	221.505	-0.6	-0.4
Commodities.....	190.720	188.832	184.182	-3.4	-2.5
Commodities less food & beverages.....	162.366	157.413	150.881	-7.1	-4.1
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	220.256	210.795	195.595	-11.2	-7.2
Durables.....	108.145	107.107	108.005	-0.1	0.8
Services.....	254.498	255.519	257.946	1.4	0.9
<b>Special aggregate indexes:</b>					
All items less medical care.....	216.459	215.909	214.623	-0.8	-0.6
All items less shelter.....	222.129	220.812	217.807	-1.9	-1.4
Commodities less food.....	163.401	158.785	152.621	-6.6	-3.9
Nondurables.....	234.689	232.345	224.367	-4.4	-3.4
Nondurables less food.....	218.537	210.096	196.282	-10.2	-6.6
Services less rent of shelter <sup>(2)</sup> .....	292.831	292.769	293.262	0.1	0.2
Services less medical care services.....	242.062	243.052	245.292	1.3	0.9
Energy.....	250.577	236.031	203.470	-18.8	-13.8

**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods Kansas City, MO-KS (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued**

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 1st half 2015 from-	
	1st half 2014	2nd half 2014	1st half 2015	1st half 2014	2nd half 2014
All items less energy.....	221.493	222.504	224.567	1.4	0.9
All items less food and energy.....	216.040	216.269	218.718	1.2	1.1

<sup>(1)</sup> This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

<sup>(2)</sup> Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

<sup>(3)</sup> Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

<sup>(4)</sup> Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

<sup>(5)</sup> Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

**Table 2. Consumer Price Index for Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods Kansas City, MO-KS (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)**

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 1st half 2015 from-	
	1st half 2014	2nd half 2014	1st half 2015	1st half 2014	2nd half 2014
<b>Expenditure category</b>					
All Items.....	214.905	214.311	212.284	-1.2	-0.9
All items (1967=100).....	629.671	627.932	621.993		
Food and beverages.....	252.235	258.074	258.157	2.3	0.0
Food.....	256.689	262.576	262.390	2.2	-0.1
Food at home.....	244.696	250.526	248.861	1.7	-0.7
Food away from home.....	277.819	282.902	284.912	2.6	0.7
Alcoholic beverages.....	191.419	196.570	200.241	4.6	1.9
Housing.....	198.978	200.250	201.984	1.5	0.9
Shelter.....	216.955	219.005	222.574	2.6	1.6
Rent of primary residence <sup>(1)</sup> .....	233.518	236.641	240.491	3.0	1.6
Owners' equiv. rent of residences <sup>(1) (2)</sup> .....	205.503	207.518	209.851	2.1	1.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence <sup>(1) (2)</sup> .....	205.503	207.518	209.851	2.1	1.1
Fuels and utilities.....	232.043	232.560	227.304	-2.0	-2.3
Household energy.....	201.318	198.146	192.081	-4.6	-3.1
Energy services <sup>(1)</sup> .....	198.887	195.968	190.074	-4.4	-3.0
Electricity <sup>(1)</sup> .....	156.493	158.235	158.768	1.5	0.3
Utility (piped) gas service <sup>(1)</sup> .....	218.244	206.437	188.957	-13.4	-8.5
Household furnishings and operations.....	112.691	110.902	111.914	-0.7	0.9
Apparel.....	109.178	106.853	107.449	-1.6	0.6
Transportation.....	201.722	193.153	178.193	-11.7	-7.7
Private transportation.....	200.502	192.053	176.977	-11.7	-7.8
Motor fuel.....	305.973	277.544	211.906	-30.7	-23.6
Gasoline (all types).....	304.999	276.563	211.167	-30.8	-23.6
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>(3)</sup> .....	298.377	270.345	205.903	-31.0	-23.8
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>(3) (4)</sup> .....	370.843	335.535	256.530	-30.8	-23.5
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>(3)</sup> .....	296.349	270.624	211.202	-28.7	-22.0
Medical Care.....	344.466	347.206	351.120	1.9	1.1
Recreation <sup>(5)</sup> .....	129.064	126.438	128.190	-0.7	1.4
Education and communication <sup>(5)</sup> .....	117.148	116.407	113.490	-3.1	-2.5
Other goods and services.....	407.396	410.582	413.882	1.6	0.8
<b>Commodity and Service Group</b>					
All Items.....	214.905	214.311	212.284	-1.2	-0.9
Commodities.....	188.214	186.006	179.971	-4.4	-3.2
Commodities less food & beverages.....	159.601	154.045	145.521	-8.8	-5.5
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	222.040	211.670	193.314	-12.9	-8.7
Durables.....	109.080	107.937	108.674	-0.4	0.7
Services.....	245.722	246.680	248.500	1.1	0.7
<b>Special aggregate indexes:</b>					
All items less medical care.....	209.334	208.575	206.251	-1.5	-1.1
All items less shelter.....	215.275	213.615	209.390	-2.7	-2.0
Commodities less food.....	160.876	155.612	147.414	-8.4	-5.3
Nondurables.....	236.928	234.074	224.218	-5.4	-4.2
Nondurables less food.....	221.118	211.599	194.430	-12.1	-8.1
Services less rent of shelter <sup>(2)</sup> .....	257.138	256.763	256.560	-0.2	-0.1
Services less medical care services.....	233.250	234.188	235.858	1.1	0.7
Energy.....	249.848	234.850	200.888	-19.6	-14.5

**Table 2. Consumer Price Index for Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods**  
**Kansas City, MO-KS (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)**  
**- Continued**

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 1st half 2015 from-	
	1st half 2014	2nd half 2014	1st half 2015	1st half 2014	2nd half 2014
All items less energy.....	212.323	213.523	215.319	1.4	0.8
All items less food and energy.....	203.598	203.955	206.099	1.2	1.1

<sup>(1)</sup> This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

<sup>(2)</sup> Index is on a December 1984=100 base.

<sup>(3)</sup> Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

<sup>(4)</sup> Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

<sup>(5)</sup> Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.